

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 23 ROUNDUP

1. MAY 23 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIALY SAID  
"THERE SHOULD BE NO EUPHORIA ABOUT WHAT WAS ACHIEVED BY  
SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN GENEVA.  
TWO SIDES ARE NOT ON VERGE OF CONCLUDING NEW AGREEMENT ON  
LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FAR FROM IT. BUT THEY  
DID EMERGE WITH WHAT IS CALLED 'FRAMEWORK' FOR NEGOTIATION  
AND THAT APPEARS TO BE DECIDED STEP FORWARD AFTER EARLIER  
UNSUCCESSFUL TALKS IN MOSCOW." MONITOR SAID GENEVA TALKS  
"WENT ON DISCREETLY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITH DIPLOMATIC  
UNDERSTATEMENT RATHER THAN EXAGGERATION. WHILE FOREIGN  
POLICY GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OUGHT TO BE OPENLY ENUNCIATED,  
GOALS ARE OFTEN BEST ACHIEVED THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY --  
AND WITH EACH SIDE'S DUE APPRECIATION OF OTHER'S PERCEIVED  
INTERESTS."

2. ROBERT KEATLEY OF WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID MAY 23 THAT  
GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS PRODUCED SOME PROGRESS TOWARD BOTH  
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SECOND AND THIRD TREATY TO CONTROL STRATEGIC NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS. "BUT JUST HOW MUCH PROGRESS, AND ON WHAT, REMAINS  
MYSTERY," KEATLEY SAID, NOTING THAT GROMYKO "SOUNDED DOWN-  
RIGHT ANGRY ABOUT THREE DAYS OF TALKS." BUT, KEATLEY ADDED,  
"IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HIS NEGATIVE REMARKS ARE MORE OF  
BARGAINING TACTIC THAN REFLECTION OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN  
SECRET NEGOTIATIONS."

3. MICHAEL GETLER AND PETER OSNOS, IN DISPATCH PUBLISHED IN MAY 22 WASHINGTON POST, COMMENTED THAT "FIRMNESS OF GROMYKO'S AIRPORT COMMENTS SEEM TO SHOW THAT SOVIETS TAKE MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEW AND THAT AFTER ACRIMONY OF RECENT MONTHS, REACHING SALT PACT WILL NOT BE SO EASY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT AFTER TOUGHNESS OF THEIR POSITION IN MARCH, SOVIETS DO NOT WISH TO BE SEEN AS SHIFTING DIRECTIONS TOO QUICKLY. MOSCOW'S ANGER OVER CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON MANY ISSUES HAS BECOME MAJOR THEME OF KREMLIN PRONOUNCEMENTS."

4. BERNARD GWERTZMAN, WRITING IN MAY 22 NEW YORK TIMES, SAID AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS, VANCE AND GROMYKO SAID PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE -- WITH VANCE "BY FAR MORE POSITIVE. BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT NO BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT FURTHER DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS STILL HAVE TO BE HELD."

5. DAVID K. WILLIS, IN MAY 23 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, SAID "SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS REMAIN. NEITHER MR. VANCE NOR MR. GROMYKO COULD AGREE ON WHAT ITEMS SHOULD GO INTO EACH OF THREE-TIER FRAMEWORK -- TREATY, PROTOCOL, STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. AND MR. GROMYKO'S SOMBER FAREWELL STATEMENT AS HE LEFT GENEVA FOR HOME UNDERSCORED THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT PREPARED TO BE SEEN AROUND WORLD AS YIELDING TOO FAST ON U.S. BARGAINING HUSTLE AND BUSTLE. CLEARLY GENEVA FAILED TO BUDGE EITHER SIDE FROM ITS BASIC POSITIONS. AND NEITHER AMERICANS NOR SOVIETS WOULD PREDICT WHETHER NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BEFORE CURRENT FREEZE ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS EXPIRES OCT. 3. NOTHING LESS THAN PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENTIRE HOPES FOR SUCCESSFUL RELATIONS WITH HIS CHIEF GLOBAL ADVERSARY REST ON OUTCOME. MOOD OF DETENTE, SOVIETS SAY, DEPENDS MAINLY ON STATE OF ARMS CONTROL. NEITHER SIDE UNDERESTIMATES GRAVITY OF PROBLEMS AHEAD -- ALTHOUGH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE APPEARS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. GROMYKO."

6. CHRISTOPHER WREN OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN MAY 22 DISPATCH FROM GENEVA, SAID LARGER CONCERN IMPLICIT IN GENEVA TALKS WAS "OVER-ALL STATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THESE WERE ERODED WHEN DETENTE BECAME AN ISSUE IN AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS LAST YEAR. MOSCOW'S HOPES FOR RETURN TO BALMIER DAYS WERE FRUSTRATED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOVIET UNION. IN SUCH CLIMATE, FAILURE OF ARMS TALKS LAST MARCH BROUGHT RELATIONSHIP TO LOW POINT. CURRENT TALKS SUGGESTED

THAT BOTH SIDES WERE INTERESTED IN REPAIRING DAMAGE,  
THOUGH WITHOUT SEEMING TO GIVE GROUND THEMSELVES." VANCE

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